

REMARKS

Claims 2-17 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 4 and 6 are currently amended, new Claim 21 has been added, and Claims 2-3, 5 and 7-17 remain unchanged. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 8-10, 12 and 16 include allowable subject matter.

Claims 2-5 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wendt (US 3,465,549) in view of either Haberstump (US 2,358,507) or Hagopian (US 2,188,684). Claims 6-7 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over King (US 1,864,738) in view of either Haberstump or Hagopian. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Haberstump. Claims 14-15 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haberstump in view of Philips.

Independent Claim 4 recites a washing machine, comprising: a housing; a conveying configuration disposed in said housing and moving laundry in a circulatory path within said housing, the laundry being supported by the conveying configuration and hanging freely from the conveying configuration; a fan disposed in said housing; and wherein said conveying configuration is a conveying belt or a conveying chain.

Neither Wendt, Haberstump, nor Hagopian disclose, among other things, "a conveying configuration disposed in said housing and moving laundry in a circulatory path within said housing, the laundry being supported by the conveying configuration and hanging freely from the conveying configuration," as recited in Claim 4. Wendt discloses multiple containers (14) in which the laundry is held. Haberstump discloses multiple wire containers or baskets (67) that hold the utensils. Hagopian discloses a plurality of tumbling drums (24) in which furs are held. None of these references disclose a conveying configuration supporting laundry and in which the laundry hangs freely from the conveying configuration. Therefore, all the elements of Claim 4 are not shown in the cited references.

For these and other reasons, Wendt, Haberstump and Hagopian, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by independent Claim 4. Therefore, Claim 4 is allowable. Claims 2-3, 5, 7-12 and 16-17 depend from Claim 4 and

are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

Independent Claim 6 recites a washing machine, comprising: a housing; a conveying configuration disposed in said housing and moving laundry in a circulatory path within said housing, the laundry being supported by the conveying configuration and hanging freely from the conveying configuration; a fan disposed in said housing; and wherein said conveying configuration is operable to convey the laundry in at least three modes dependent upon a processing operation to be carried out, wherein the first mode keeps the laundry stationary, the second mode moves the laundry into a constant-speed circulatory path, and the third mode executes a reciprocating movement.

As described above, neither Haberstump nor Hagopian disclose, among other things, “a conveying configuration disposed in said housing and moving laundry in a circulatory path within said housing, the laundry being supported by the conveying configuration and hanging freely from the conveying configuration.” Claim 6 also includes this limitation and King does not cure the deficiencies of Haberstump and Hagopian. King discloses drums (16) in which laundry is held. King does not disclose a conveying configuration supporting laundry and in which the laundry hangs freely from the conveying configuration.

In addition, neither King, Haberstump nor Hagopian disclose a conveying configuration being “operable to convey the laundry in at least three modes dependent upon a processing operation to be carried out, wherein the first mode keeps the laundry stationary, the second mode moves the laundry into a constant-speed circulatory path, and the third mode executes a reciprocating movement,” as recited in Claim 6. Regarding a reciprocating movement, the Examiner correctly notes that King discloses reversing the direction of rotation of the drums. (See page 3, lines 14-26) However, reversing direction is not the same as a “reciprocating movement” that moves the object back and forth. King teaches that the direction of rotation should be “periodically reversed,” which suggests the changes in direction are not frequent and the duration of movement in each direction is for a relatively long period of time. Therefore, all the elements of Claim 6 are not shown in the cited references.

For these and other reasons, King, Haberstump and Hagopian, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by independent Claim 6. Therefore, Claim 6 is allowable.

Independent Claim 13 recites a washing machine, comprising: a housing; a conveying configuration disposed in said housing and moving laundry in a circulatory path within said housing; a fan disposed in said housing; and a rinsing-water container disposed at said housing, said container being a heat exchanger.

Haberstump does not disclose, among other things, "a rinsing-water container disposed at said housing, said container being a heat exchanger," as recited in Claim 13. The Examiner cites page 4, right col. Lines 31-33 of Haberstump as disclosing a rinsing-water container and states that a heat exchanger is inherent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

The portion of Haberstump cited by the Examiner discusses the wire containers or baskets (67) that hold the utensils within the device. These containers (67) are wire baskets, as shown in Fig. 1, 2 and 6, and are incapable of being a water container. In fact, the containers (67) are wire baskets with large openings near the bottom specifically designed to allow water to easily pass through the basket and prevent water from remaining in the container. In addition, there is nothing disclosed in Haberstump that would make a heat exchanger inherent from the wire basket containers (67). Applicants note that additional discussion of the rinsing-water containers and heat exchanger is provided in the present application on page 14, lines 4-18.

For these and other reasons, Haberstump does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claim 13. Therefore, Claim 13 is allowable. Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 13 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 2-17 and 21 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig J. Loest", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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